



Frequently Asked Questions from the Transportation Community

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The purpose of this FAQ is to answer many of the questions that MTC management, staff, commissioners, Partner agencies, the media and the general public have regarding Census 2000 data.

1. What Census 2000 data is currently available?

Census 2000 data is from either the "short form" also known as the 100-percent data, or the "long form" also known as sample data. As of January 2003, all of the "short form" data has been released. Most of the "long form" data (except for the PUMS, the CTPP, and Summary File #4) were released in 2002. All of the Census 2000 data should be released before the end of 2003.

2. When will the detailed Census 2000 Journey-to-Work data be available?

The Census 2000 "journey-to-work" data is a part of the "Census Transportation Planning Package" or "CTPP." The detailed CTPP tables that include data by place-of-residence, county-of-residence, and zone-of-residence data will be released starting February 2003. The detailed "flow" data (place-to-place, zone-to-zone) and detailed data at place-of-work and zone-of-work, will be released summer 2003.

CTPP Part 1	Residence-Based Tables	February – March 2003
CTPP Part 2	Work-End-Based Tables	Summer 2003
CTPP Part 3,4	Worker "Flow" Tables	Summer 2003

3. When will county-to-county commute pattern data from Census 2000 be available?

County-to-county commute data is expected for release in February 2003. This will only include total commuters, not commuters by means of transportation.

4. What type of data is in the Census "short form"?

Data included in the Census 2000 short form includes: population, age, sex, race and ethnicity, relationship to head of household, tenure (owner or renter), persons per household and type of group quarters.

5. What type of data is in the Census "long form"?

Data included in the Census 2000 long form includes: all "short form" variables, plus person characteristics, including: employment status, industry and occupation of worker, means of transportation to work, location of work, commute vehicle occupancy, time of departure from home-to-work, commute duration, disability, household income by type of income, marital status, school enrollment status, last level of schooling, language at home, citizenship, ancestry, residential mobility, state or nation of birth, grandparents as caregivers, and military service. Other household or housing units variables include: vehicle availability, structure type, age of unit, number of rooms and bedrooms, plumbing, kitchen, telephone, fuel used for home heating, utility costs, rental and mortgage payments, and property value.

6. What are the geographic levels that census data are released at?

Most of the “short form” data is available down to the census “block” level. There are 76,249 blocks in the San Francisco Bay Area. Some short form data, such as detailed Asian population, are only available down the “census tract” level. There are 1,405 census tracts in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Most of the “long form” data – released in 2002 – is available down to the census “block group” level. There are 4,422 block groups in the San Francisco Bay Area.

CTPP data for the Bay Area will be available at the “census zone” level (4,069 zones in the Bay Area), census tract, and place level. There are 183 total places in the Bay Area, including 101 incorporated cities and 82 unincorporated places. The CTPP will only publish place-level data for places of 2,500-or-more total population. This will exclude 40 of the 183 Bay Area places in terms of CTPP summary data.

7. When and what’s being released next?

The county-to-county total commuter files is expected February 2003. In addition, the residence-based tables of the CTPP are expected February-March 2003. The one-percent Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) is expected March 2003.

8. Where should I go for more information?

Very beneficial to census data users is the Census Bureau’s American Factfinder web site, at: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

MTC and ABAG maintain a Census 2000 web site at: <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/>

MTC and ABAG also maintain an Internet mailing list (“listserv”) that is used to share current information about census products and activities. Information about “subscribing” to this listserv is available on the MTC-ABAG Census web site (www.bayareacensus.ca.gov).

Other MTC Census activities are reported on our DataMart web site at: <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/datamart/census.htm>

MTC staff members responsible for Census data are Chuck Purvis (e-mail: cpurvis@mtc.ca.gov, phone: 510-464-7731) and Shimon Israel (e-mail: sisrael@mtc.ca.gov, phone: 510-464-7839). Questions may also be directed to the MTC/ABAG library at e-mail: library@mtc.ca.gov, phone: 510-464-7836.